

Norse-Car Conductor, Wins Nobel Prize



BY HANSUN'S COUNTRY



KNUT HAMSON

DID you ever hear of Knut Hamsun before he won the Nobel prize for literature? Well, you needn't feel lonesome—unless you are an old-time resident of Chicago, where he was a horse-car conductor back in the eighties.

Anyway, Knut Hamsun, who is a Norwegian and lives a near-hermit life in the wilds of Norway, has been awarded the belated prize of 1919—whereat most Americans are vastly astonished.

Some old-time Chicago residents of Scandinavian blood remember Knut—they seem to think in those days that it was split with three letters.

"Why, sure, I knew him; I knew that Knut Hamsun," said Dr. Anders Doe, for many years prominent in Den Norske klub. "He was such an out-of-the-elbows lad; he was very poor. No, he had no money. That was in the early eighties, when he came to Chicago after working as a plowboy on the virgin North Dakota prairies. He got a job as conductor on the old Halsted street line. The horses pulled the cars then. And, my, it was cold on the back platform. I still remember Knut's chapped, red wrists, where his coat-sleeves forgot to meet his mittens. And he carried books in his pockets. Always books, Euripides, Aristotle, Thackeray. Such a dreamer! The passengers used to get mad. He would forget to pull the rope. They missed their corners."

And so disaster befell Conductor Knut Hamsun. The Halsted street horse-car was not for him. He couldn't remember the streets. On pilgrimages down the line he used to call out "North avenue," for "Division street."

One day an old lady asked Hamsun if the car was southbound. Hamsun scratched his scragged blond hair. He ran forward, trampling over the passengers' feet.

"Are we going south?" he asked the driver.

"We are going to h—l," growled the driver.

And so the superintendent of the car barn gave Knut Hamsun the sack. He said the Norwegian was too stupid even to cruise as skipper of a Halsted street car. Hamsun went to New York. He got a berth on a Newfoundland fishing-smack. Later he worked his way to Norway as a seaman.

It is restless life, full of adventure that we find in Hamsun's writings, which are properly called the author's confessions. He is truly representative of the Scandinavian bohemians whom he lets look in the glass in his novel, "The Earth."

Born in Gulbrandsdal on August 4, 1859, Hamsun wrote little poems when a young shoemaker's apprentice. He did not like that trade.

His irrepressible longing for adventure drove him to the United States, where he tried to make a living as a cabin boy, miner, store clerk, horse-car conductor, and what not. During that period he wrote a sketch or poem once in a while, or was an aggressive agitator of atheism and anarchism. When he believed he was a consumptive he was, for a short time, a preacher and devoted his spare time and energy to the study of religious mysticism.

In all dilemmas of his adventurous life Hamsun was homesick. When he landed at Copenhagen he was without money or friends. Disgusted with life, he hid in a garret to starve himself to death.

His sketch "Hunger" was the offspring of the struggle between voluntary starvation and the instinct of self-preservation that could not be conquered by the longing for the "great unknown." When printed in a

Danish newspaper, "Hunger" placed Hamsun in the first rank of Scandinavian authors. His novel of the same title, "Hunger," made him world-famous. The masterly and impressive analysis of the human soul in "Hunger" is characteristic of all of Hamsun's writings.

His great success and fame notwithstanding, Knut Hamsun continues to live a solitary life; he did not care for honors. When his fiftieth birthday was celebrated throughout Norway and the Norwegians rhapsodized over him as the "greatest living poet," Hamsun retired to a hut in the forest near Gulbrandsdal. When he had reason to assume that his admirers would find him there he went further north to the Hamsun farm, where he lived when a little child. From there he issued his energetic "Honor to the Young," coming out for youth against age, in defiance of the accepted theory of the superiority of the old.

That he himself had not aged he proved by his novel, "A Wanderer Plays With the Sardine." Subsequently he wrote the wonderful satire of the drama, "Gotten by the Devil," which showed that the high quality of his own dramatic creations was not adversely influenced by his contempt of dramatic art and technique. His other drama—the trilogy, "At the Door of the Wealthy," "Queen Tamara" (his best drama), and "Munken Vendt" (an impressive picture of the life of a debauched theologian)—is powerful.

Still better are Hamsun's novels, among them "Mysteries," "Editor Lange" and the love story "Pan." All these writings are a strange mixture of rude realism, dreamy mysticism and impulsive sentiment. On the one hand Hamsun lets loose the reins of phantasy and introduces us to a world of wonderfully dear dreams; on the other hand, he is a cold critic of the human soul, who exposes the weak side of modern life with penetrating intellect.

It is said that 65,000,000 pages of Hamsun's work have appeared in 23 languages, but it is safe to say that the average well-read American had never heard of him. In short, the award comes as a distinct shock. By what mischance all these years has he overlooked the Norwegian writer's name suddenly to be humiliated by his own ignorance? If he subjects to examination his acquaintances who have earned the reputation of being explorers in the world of books, it may be some consolation to find that they are no better informed about Hamsun and his works. Have American publishers done their duty to a country whose forests are rapidly being depleted in the cause of literature in slighting an author held worthy by the Stockholm jury of signal honors?

In former years when the Nobel prize-winners were announced there was no such cause for self-reproach. At least it was reassuring to know that they were persons of world-wide renown, however widely read. Sully Prudhomme, Mommsen, Bjornson, Mistral, Echegaray, Sienkiewicz, Carducci, Kipling, Paul von Heyse, Maeterlinck, and the rest, whether French, German, Norwegian, Spanish, Polish, Italian, English, or Belgian, for the occasion needed no introduction. Then in 1916 came the crowning of Verner

Heidenstam, the Swede, and after a gap of three years it is now the turn of Knut Hamsun, the Norwegian. Evidently if Americans are to keep up with the times they must pay more attention to the Scandinavian languages or put the translators to work.

It is no impeachment of the judges or the prize-winner that Hamsun's fame should have been so long in crossing the Atlantic, although his romance, "Hunger," was published as long ago as 1888. The Nobel prize, under the terms of the founder, is to be given annually "to the person who shall have produced the greatest work, in the ideal sense, in the world of letters." The names are apparently those of authors with a wide continental reputation rather than those most esteemed by their own compatriots.

Hamsun is evidently a born writer. Perhaps his boyhood in the Far North helped to make him a writer, poet and dreamer. The long arctic nights may have brought out the hereditary trait. For such a nature as his is described, "paradoxical and rebellious as it is poetic and picturesque," seems necessarily the final fruit of powerful hereditary tendencies, and his peasant forbears are said to have been marked out from their neighbors at least once in each generation by an artistic tendency that made of them skilled craftsmen. At any rate, from the time he learned to make his letters he was striving at literary creation, and when at seventeen he consented to be apprenticed to a shoemaker it was in order that he might earn the money to have printed at his own expense his first two complete works, a short novel and a long poem.

The next use he made of his apprenticeship was to jump the job with some more savings and go to Christiania, where he hoped to work his way through the university. But in that hope he failed. There were two reasons for this failure. The more important was that he had hoped to pay for his lectures by selling stuff to the Christiania publishers of newspapers and periodicals and he couldn't do it. They did not want his poetry, his fiction or his essays. This failure produced the second reason why he could not remain at the university. He became either an unbearable nuisance to his fellow students or the butt of their jokes. They did not understand him and he made no effort to be understood. So he left the university and came to America.

Hamsun, like other geniuses, was apparently born to be misunderstood. Anyway, "Shallow Soil," published in 1898, was the result of Hamsun's life among the Bohemians of Christiania after his street car experience in Chicago. It does not seem to have been a pleasant period in his life. Evidently he was no better understood or liked by the Bohemians than he had been by the students at the university a dozen years before. Hamsun took his revenge by his violent attack on the Bohemians in "Shallow Soil." The same life has been described by Strindberg in a much more good-humored way.

Hamsun's career and final success seem to point anew the moral that it is hard to keep a good man down. He had a hard life, and success seemed a mere ignis fatuus, but he kept on trying.

DAIRY FACTS

HIGH COST OF PRODUCTION

Illinois Experiment Station Secured Reliable Figures From 680 Dairy Farms.

There are various estimates on milk production costs and they are likely to be different under different circumstances. Moreover, there is considerable variation in milk quality, also, as it ranges from barely three per cent butterfat test to nearly five per cent. However, none of the figures available show that the producer of milk is "profiteering."

In Illinois the state experiment station secured accurate figures on milk production costs from 680 dairy farms with a total of 18,902 cows. Those figures showed the cost of all items entering into the production of 100 pounds of milk as follows:

Grain, 44 pounds at \$55 per ton	..\$1.21
Silage, 188 pounds at \$8 per ton	..58
Hay, 50 pounds at \$30 per ton	..75
Other roughage, 89 pounds, at \$10 per ton	..19
Labor, 2 1/2 hours at 30 cents per hour	..75

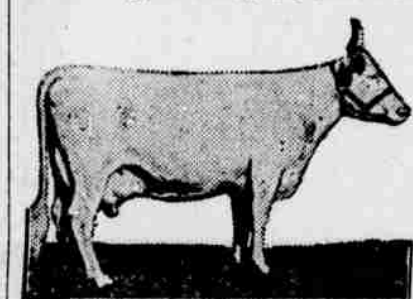
Total cost per 100 pounds.....\$3.48
The cost is 3.48 cents per pound, or, taking 2.15 pounds per quart, 7.44 cents per quart.

EYE TEST FOR TUBERCULOSIS

Used as Check Upon Older Methods, as It Happens Occasionally Reacts Escape.

The eye test for detecting tuberculosis in cattle has the approval of the scientists of the bureau of animal industry, United States Department of Agriculture. The ophthalmic or eye test is used as a check upon the older methods, as it happens occasionally that an animal that will not react to the subcutaneous injection or intradermal test will react to the eye test.

Two tuberculin tablets are placed in the conjunctival sac beneath the lower lid of the left eye and observations are taken at approximately the third hour



Eye Test for Tuberculosis Has Its Best Use on Dairy Farm, Where Conditions Are Best Suited.

following and at frequent intervals up to 24 hours. Reaction to the test is indicated by discharge and swelling.

The bureau of animal industry is not prepared to accept the evidence of the eye test alone where cattle are intended for interstate shipment. The test, however, furnishes an additional safeguard when used with the older method.

The eye test is not well adapted for use upon range cattle or cattle in transit, because of the possibility for dust setting up an irritation not related to tuberculosis. It has its best use on the dairy farm, where conditions are such as to give sure results.

The experts have observed that in herds which are frequently tested by the subcutaneous method it is advisable to apply the intradermal and the eye test. The combined test sometimes detects reactors which have escaped detection by other means.

CRUSHED GRAIN IS FAVORED

Any Aid Given Cow in Digestion of Food Will Show in Increased Flow of Milk.

There is no animal harder worked than the dairy cow giving a large flow of milk, and any aid given her in digestion will show decided increase in milk and in her condition. Some grains are easy of mastication and digestion, but the usual ration of the corn belt is comprised mainly of wheat, corn, oats, rye and barley. All of these grains will show up in the feces if fed whole and unless the cattle are followed by hogs it is entirely lost.

Crushing grain is better than grinding it fine, for the digestibility may be decreased due to failure to mix properly with the saliva. Beware of dairy feeds too finely ground, for they may contain filler and cannot be properly digested.

BEETS ARE EXCELLENT FEED

Because of Labor in Harvesting and Cost of Handling Are Not as Cheap as Silage.

Sugar beets are an excellent feed for dairy cows, but because of the labor in harvesting and the expense of handling, are not as economical as corn silage. They have a larger amount of nutriment than mangels or rutabagas, but it is generally held that the latter will yield somewhat more per acre and are less difficult to handle. Sugar beets are not hard on the kidneys, but if fed in too large quantities there is a tendency to scour the animals. This is due to the high sugar content of the beet.

WARNING

Unless you see the name "Bayer" on tablets, you are not getting genuine Aspirin prescribed by physicians for 21 years, and proved safe by millions.—Say "Bayer"!



SAFETY FIRST! Accept only an "unbroken package" of genuine "Bayer Tablets of Aspirin," which contains proper directions for Headache, Earache, Toothache, Neuralgia, Colds, Rheumatism, Neuritis, Lumbago, and pain generally. Strictly American!

Handy tin boxes of 12 tablets cost but a few cents—Larger packages. Aspirin is the trade mark of Bayer Manufacturing of Monacacetate of Salicylic Acid.

Different.

"Savages used to paint their faces," commented Mr. Chuggins. "He crawls under his car and gets his face smeared with automobile grease."

A Sunflower Definition.

Really, a pessimist is only a person who expects to get the worst of it a little sooner than the rest of us.—Topeka Capital.

A bank isn't necessarily solid because it has a stone front.

HONOR FOR CANADA

Wins Championships at International Live Stock Show.

Splendid Exhibits, Both of Animals and Grain, Won Admiration of Judges and Spectators.

One of the most interesting sights at the International Live Stock show at Chicago was the evening parades of horses and cattle. As the Canadian section of these parades came into view, there was continued applause. There were two or three reasons for this, the principal one being that in this section there were the wonderful Clydesdales, the Belgians and the Percherons that had carried off championships and first prizes. The province of Saskatchewan had a splendid display of Clydesdales and showed in a number of classes, and in every class they got in the money. A remarkable and noted winning was that of the University of Saskatchewan, showing "Lady Bruce," female Clydesdale, in a class of 24 and taking second. In competition there were entries from such famous studs as Conyngham Bros. of Wilkesbarre, P. L. James of Easton, Mass., and George Chieft of the same state. She was beaten by an imported mare, but was later made champion American-bred mare and reserve grand champion, an honor never before conferred upon anything but an imported animal.

The following are some of the good things that Canada won at the International in a fair fight and no favors. Grand championship for Clydesdale stallions; championship for American-bred Clydesdale mares; reserve senior and reserve grand championships for Clydesdale mares; grand championship for Southdown sheep; sweepstakes grand championship for wheat for the continent of America; championship for Durum wheat for America.

Another of the reasons for the applause given the Canadian sections of the parade was the heartiness with which the American spirit was imbued that impelled it to greet with the fullest appreciation the efforts of the winner, and the hundreds of Canadians in the immense audience of the amphitheater appreciated it.

The purpose that Canada had in making exhibits from their farms, whether it was of live stock—and they had it there in all branches—grains, grasses or roots, was to demonstrate that the war had not created devastation, that the country was alive with interest in the matter of production and that it had ability to produce in a manner that would bring it championships, and what better place than the International, where it would be placed before thousands, many of whom, with the enlightenment thus gained and with a desire to better their condition, would be made to realize that in the neighboring country to the north there was an opportunity that it might be of advantage to them to embrace.—Advertisement.

No Time to Lose.

"This marked-down fish is, I suppose, all right for immediate cooking?"

"Yes, but run home."

Chronic Constipation is as dangerous as disagreeable. Garfield Tea cures it.—Adv.

The Time is Ripe.

"I want to do something really great in music."

"Try a jazz symphony."

Hall's Catarrh Medicine

Those who are in a "run down" condition will notice that Catarrh bothers them much more than when they are in good health. This fact proves that while Catarrh is a local disease, it is greatly influenced by constitutional conditions. HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE is a Tonic and Blood Purifier, and acts through the blood upon the mucous surfaces of the body, thus reducing the inflammation and restoring normal conditions.

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Is your back giving out? Are you tortured with backache and stabbing pains? Does any exertion leave you "all played out"? Feel you just can't keep going? Likely your kidneys are to blame. Overwork, colds, hurry and worry tend to weaken the kidneys. Backache is often the first warning. Headache and dizziness may come, too, and annoying kidney irregularities. Help the kidneys with Doan's Kidney Pills—the remedy recommended by thousands. Ask your neighbor!

An Illinois Case

R. S. Pittman, farmer, Ill. 2nd Ave., Sterling, Ill., says: "Terrible pains caught me in the small of my back and the kidney secretions passed often at night, with a burning sensation. After reading Doan's Directory I used Doan's Kidney Pills. After I had used them a few days I began to feel like a different man."

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One of the most successful bulbs for house culture is the Chinese sacred lily, a variety of the narcissus which is imported from China. Place in a dish about three inches deep, put in one and a half inches of sand, and cover with one inch of gravel, white pebbles, or broken marble. On this set the bulbs to prevent them from floating. Place them in a sunny window, and they will bloom perfectly. The

flowers are white, with a yellow-tinted cup, the stems having a tress, with from three to seven blooms. The Chinese cut away the hard skin on the top of the bulb, which seems to facilitate the growth, but in cutting, one must be careful to cut only one-eighth of an inch in depth, or the leaf growth will be injured.

Why Drones Are Numerous.

The great puzzle has been why did Nature create so many drones among bees, when but one ever served a def-

nite purpose in a hive. Huber, famous bee student, has answered it by declaring that males must be numerous so that the queen in her bridal flight will have the heat of chances to meet one. Were there but two or three to a hive they might miss the departure of their queen altogether, or else fail to find her on her flight. Her stay in her flight must be brief, for a sudden wind, may blow her from her course or beat her to earth where, wet-winged and chilled, she would die or fall prey to a bird.